

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1269

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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BRUSSELS FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, US, SP

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - NEW SPANISH CIVIL AVIATION CHIEF PREDICTS EARLY
RENEGOTIATION OF BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH US

1. ECON/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR AND CIVIL AVIATION OFFICER CALLED ON NEWLY-APPOINTED (JULY 23) SUBSECRETARY OF CIVIL AVIATION, JOSE SAENZ INSAUSTY, ON AUGUST 3. IN REPLY TO QUERY ON BILATERAL PROBLEMS WITH US, SAENZ SAID THERE WERE SEVERAL BUT THAT MAJOR PROBLEM WAS NEED TO ALTER PRESENT ROUTE STRUCTURE. SPANISH HAVE DROPPED BOSTON AND WASHINGTON ROUTES AS UNECONOMICAL, RETAINING ONLY DAILY SERVICE TO NEW YORK. ACCORDING TO SAENZ, SPANISH WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN RIGHTS FOR SERVICE TO CHICAGO, WHICH HE CLAIMS MOST OTHER EUROPEAN AIRLINES ALREADY HAVE. SAENZ SAID THERE ARE OTHER POINTS IN 1973 BILATERAL AGREEMENT WHICH SPANISH BELIEVE SHOULD BE ALTERED, BUT THESE ARE OF MINOR IMPORTANCE COMPARED WITH ROUTE QUESTION.

2. WITH REGARD TO REORGANIZATION AND FUTURE LOCATION OF SUBSECRETA-
RIAT OF CIVIL AVIATION, SAENZ EXPLAINED THAT NO FIRM DECISIONS
HAVE BEEN MADE. PROBLEM IS AMPLIFIED BY SIZE OF NEWLY-CREATED
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS, WHICH INCLUDES SPANISH
RAILWAYS (RENFE), POST AND TELEGRAPH, SURFACE TRANSPORT, MERCHANT
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MARINE AND OTHER MINOR ORGANIZATIONS IN ADDITION TO CIVIL AVIATION.
ALTOGETHER MINISTRY HAS ABOUT 250,000 EMPLOYEES.

3. OF TOTAL 12,000 EMPLOYEES IN CIVIL AVIATION, SOME 4,000
ARE MILITARY. SAENZ EXPLAINED THAT MILITARY PERSONNEL WILL, IN
GENERAL, BE OFFERED OPTION OF SWITCHING TO CIVIL SERVICE AND
STAYING IN SUBSECRETIAT OR RETURNING TO MILITARY DUTY. SAENZ

PREDICTED THAT MANY MILITARY, ESPECIALLY OLDER OFFICERS WHO HAVE LITTLE PROSPECT OF ADVANCEMENT IN MILITARY, WILL OPT FOR CIVILIAN DUTY. SAENZ SAW SPECIAL NEED FOR DEVELOPMENT OF CORPS OF CIVILIAN PILOTS FOR IBERIA AND OTHER SPANISH AIRLINES. WITH EXISTING HEAVY USE OF MILITARY PILOTS AIRLINES ARE UNDER THREAT THAT URGENT MILITARY REQUIREMENTS MAY SUDDENLY LEAVE THEM WITHOUT SUFFICIENT CREWS. SAENZ ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SHOULD BECOME MORE COMPLETELY CIVILIAN.

4. ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH DETAILS OF ONGOING DISCUSSIONS WITH REGARD ESTABLISHMENT OF FAA GROUP (CAAG) IN MADRID, SAENZ SAID HE WAS EAGER TO CONTINUE COOPERATION WITH FAA AND WOULD TRY TO SEE THAT AGREEMENT WITH FAA WAS SIGNED PROMPTLY WHEN RECEIVED (SEE SEP-TEL). SAENZ EXPLAINED THAT SOME OF DELAYS IN FLIGHTS DURING RECENT DAYS WERE DUE TO CONTROLLER SLOWDOWN. HE CLAIMED THAT FRENCH CONTROLLERS ARE LENDING ASSISTANCE TO THEIR SPANISH COLLEAGUES IN THIS EFFORT.

5. COMMENT: THE NEW SUBSECRETARY, WHOSE PAST CAREER HAS BEEN LARGELY WITH IBERIA AND ITS PARENT ORGANIZATION THE INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE INDUSTRIA (INI), APPEARS TO BE FORTHCOMING AND KNOWLEDGEABLE IN THE CIVIL AVIATION FIELD. AS EXEMPLIFIED BY HIS STATEMENTS WITH REGARD TO "PRESSING NEED" TO RENEGOTIATE THE BILATERAL ROUTE SCHEME SO THAT IBERIA CAN GET INTO CHICAGO, SAENZ WILL MOST CERTAINLY BE STRONG PROPONENT OF IBERIA'S CAUSE. IN NOTING THAT "SPANISH CIVIL AVIATION IS FINALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REALLY CIVILIAN", SAENZ INDICATED THAT HE FELT THE INDUSTRY HAD BEEN SOMETIMES UNDULY IGNORED IN PAST BY MILITARY OFFICIALS WHO MAY NOT HAVE HAD PRIMARY INTEREST IN CIVIL SIDE OF AVIATION. STABLER

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 04-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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